***Glasgow 5th March, 1971 Essay Plan.***

*Question: Write about a poem which, in your opinion, is very effective in highlighting a number of important social issues. Explain what these issues are and examine and discuss the various ways in which Morgan managed to help you understand them in this poem.* ***🡨 copy this into the beginning of your essay!***

**Introduction**

* Mention the title and author and link to first sentence in task.
* Explain what happens in the poem (two or three sentences at most).
* Explain what you are going to discuss in your essay.

**Paragraph 1**

Explain how the poem is structured

* instamatic technique (give examples)
  + ‘snapshots’ in the poem – each sentence is a snapshot (the young man and his girl falling backwards into the window; the girls leg caught and pouring blood all over her white coat; their arms starfished out and their faces beginning to show surprise, shock and the beginning of pain; the criminals getting ready to ‘complete the operation’ and steal what they can and the sharp clear night in Sauchiehall Street with the two drivers keeping their eyes on the road).
  + Why is this effective?
* present tense verbs (give examples)
  + falling, bristling, spurts, reaching, show, keep.
  + Why are these verbs written in the present tense? Why is this effective? What do you think the writer trying to achieve by doing this?
  + Pick out **three** examples and discuss.

**Paragraph 2**

Work your way through the poem discussing the imagery and word choice *describing* how they work

Write about some of the following: (minimum 3, maximum 6).

*“ragged diamond of shattered plate-glass”* – oxymoron.

*“man’s face is bristling with fragments of glass”* – metaphor.

*“and the girl’s leg has caught on the broken window”* – word choice.  
 *“leg spurts arterial blood”* – word choice – (*spurts*).

*“arms are starfished out”* - metaphor

two youths are *“about to complete the operation”* – word choice (*operation*)

*“to loot what they can smartly”* – word choice; what does this suggest?

*“two drivers / keep their eyes on the road”* - what does this suggest? (theme of the poem that society has lost its morality and doesn’t care for others)

* Explain **WHY** you find *each* technique you discuss to be effective? What does it make you think of? How does it add to the poem. You could use the line “This is effective because…” or – better still – come up with your own. Try not to repeat yourself too much.

**Paragraph 3**

Write about some of the issues highlighted in the poem.

Eg.

* Violence and its horrible effects
* People’s cold and heartless attitude towards others
* People not wanting to get involved and deliberately avoid trouble.
* How *effectively* did you find the poet’s exploration of these issues? Why do you think he wrote in this style and did not pass any judgment on the terrible crime?
* Actually say “I find…… particularly effective because…” (but try to use your own words).

**Conclusion**

* Finish by giving your overall opinion of the poem.
* What was your favourite image (that you’ve already discussed – metaphor, onomatopoeia, oxymoron) or example of word choice? Explain **why** this is effective.
* How effective was Edwin Morgan in making you think about the issues in this poem?
* Did reading this poem make you think about violence and its effect on others?
* Did it make you think about how horrible some people can be towards others just to get what they want?
* Did it make you think about whether you would get involved in helping others if you saw that they were in trouble?